

authorities. His last paper "Seventeen-year Cicada Notes for 1945" appears in another part of this JOURNAL. The late William T. Davis of Staten Island was his life-long friend and Mr. Schott spent many pleasant hours with Mr. Davis on Staten Island.

Mr. Schott's chief interests were his books on entomology and his collections of moths and beetles. He was well known to many members of the New York and Brooklyn entomological societies and to the numerous nursery interests in northern New Jersey. During his long years with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, his entomological knowledge was extensively utilized and appreciated. And his work was always ably and conscientiously performed. Mr. Schott is survived by his sister, Matilda Schott.—H. B. WEISS.

A SATURNIID FROM THE BAHAMAS (LEPIDOPTERA)

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One of the curiosities of animal distribution is the absence of moths of the family Saturniidae in the islands of the West Indies. Although much collecting has been done in the Greater and Lesser Antilles over a long period of years (more than a century and a half) no captures of any of these moths have heretofore been recorded.

Dr. Forbes,¹ in discussing the origin of the fauna of the Antilles, comments on the Saturniidae as follows: "A curious feature is the complete absence [from the Antilles] of several dominant families, most notably the . . . Saturniidae. . . They are strong flyers, and they are an ancient group which must have existed in South America for an enormous length of time, as a whole group of primitive genera (*Automeris*, *Dirphia*, etc.) are dominant there. . . As *Coloradia* and *Hemileuca* are endemic in North

¹ Scientific Survey of Porto Rico and the Virgin Islands, Vol. 12, Part 1, pp. 8-9. New York Academy of Sciences.

America, we have the Antilles completely surrounded with primitive saturnid genera, which could have entered from any of the three directions.”

Mr. Arthur S. Vernay, collecting near his home at Los Cayos, Nassau, Bahamas, on December 3, 1944, captured a much flown female of *Automeris io lilith* Strecker. This specimen, because of its worn condition, was originally regarded as an adventitious arrival from Southern Florida, where it commonly occurs. This was nevertheless the first record of a representative of the Saturniidae in the Antilles, considering that the Bahama Islands form a part of that great group.

Recently, Mr. Brian K. West of Dartford, Kent, England, furnished more information. He was stationed at Nassau, Bahamas from May 1945 until April 1946 and had the opportunity to do some collecting. He regularly observed specimens of *lilith* from June until September and again in early March. Fresh specimens were reasonably common at lights, especially the males.

There seems little doubt that *Automeris io lilith* is established as a breeding population in the area of Nassau. There is no means of determining how it arrived there but, considering the absence of Saturniidae elsewhere in the Antilles, the most plausible theory would seem to be that it was brought in by some human agency, rather than wind blown in a natural way.